

Claims 45-77 are pending in the present application, with Claims 45, 50, 55, 58, and 61 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. New Claims 64-77 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 45, 50, 55, 58, 61, 66, 69, 72, and 75 are in independent form.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 45 is directed to a wireless communication system that includes a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, including first and second wireless communication apparatuses, and a wireless control apparatus wirelessly linked with the plurality of wireless communication apparatuses.

The system includes a link establishing unit adapted to establish wireless links between the wireless control apparatus and the first and second wireless communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call. The system also includes a link maintaining unit adapted to maintain the wireless link between the wireless control apparatus and the second wireless communication apparatus after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to the incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus.

One important feature of Claim 45 is that the system makes it possible to eliminate processing for re-establishing a wireless link used for communication with the second wireless communication apparatus, by maintaining the wireless link to the second wireless communication apparatus while the first wireless communication apparatus responds to an incoming call. By virtue of this feature, the processing time for transferring the incoming call from the first to the second wireless communication apparatus can be shortened.

U.S. Patent No. 5,255,308 (Hashimoto et al.), which was cited in the parent of the present divisional application and which is of record in the present application, relates to a cordless telephone system capable of receiving group calls. As understood by Applicants, Hashimoto et al. teaches that a wireless link between a wireless control apparatus and a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses is established in accordance with detection of an incoming call. Apparently, when a specific wireless communication apparatus responds to the incoming call, ring trip signals are transmitted to the other wireless communication apparatuses. That is, Hashimoto et al. is understood to merely teach that a wireless link is maintained to halt the ringing of a wireless communication apparatus that does not respond to the incoming call.

Applicants submit that Hashimoto et al. fails to teach or suggest a wireless communication system that includes "a link maintaining unit adapted to maintain the wireless link between the wireless control apparatus and the second wireless communication apparatus after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to the incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus," as recited in Claim 45.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 45 is patentable over Hashimoto et al. Independent Claims 55 and 69 are method and memory medium claims corresponding to Claim 45, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 45. Additionally, independent Claims 50, 58, and 72 include the same feature as discussed above in connection with Claim 45. Accordingly, Claims 50, 58, and 72 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 45.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 61 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of wirelessly communicating with first and second apparatuses. The communication apparatus includes a connection unit adapted to connect communication channels used for

communication with the first and second apparatuses, respectively, when a third apparatus communicates with the first and second apparatuses. The communication apparatus also includes a channel maintaining unit adapted to maintain a communication channel used for communication with the second apparatus while the first apparatus communicates with the third apparatus, such that the second apparatus can communicate with the third apparatus.

One important feature of Claim 61 is that the communication apparatus makes it possible to eliminate processing for newly connecting a communication channel used for communication with the second apparatus, by maintaining a communication channel used for communication with the second apparatus while the first apparatus communicates with the third apparatus. By virtue of this feature, processing time for newly connecting a communication channel can be eliminated.

As mentioned above, Hashimoto et al. is understood to merely teach that a wireless link is maintained to halt the ringing of a wireless communication apparatus that does not respond to an incoming call. Applicants submit that Hashimoto et al. fails to teach or suggest a communication apparatus that includes "a channel maintaining unit adapted to maintain a communication channel used for communication

with the second apparatus while the first apparatus communicates with the third apparatus, such that the second apparatus can communicate with the third apparatus," as recited in Claim 61.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 61 is patentable over Hashimoto et al. Independent Claims 66 and 75 are method and memory medium claims corresponding to Claim 61, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 61.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

45. (Amended) A wireless communication system that includes a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, including first and second wireless communication apparatuses, and a wireless control apparatus wirelessly linked with the plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, said system comprising:

a link establishing unit adapted to establish wireless links between the wireless control apparatus and the first and second wireless communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call; and

a link maintaining unit adapted to maintain the wireless link between the wireless control apparatus and the second wireless communication apparatus [while said] after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to the incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus.

50. (Amended) A wireless control apparatus wirelessly linked with a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, including first and second wireless communication apparatuses,

comprising:

a link establishing unit adapted to establish wireless links with the first and second wireless communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call; and

a link maintaining unit adapted to maintain the wireless link established for communication with the second wireless communication apparatus [while] after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to the incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus.

55. (Amended) A method of controlling a wireless communication system that includes a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, including first and second wireless communication apparatuses, and a wireless control apparatus wirelessly linked with the plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, said method comprising:

an link establishment step of establishing wireless links between the wireless control apparatus and the first and second wireless communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call; and

a link maintaining step of maintaining the wireless link between the wireless control apparatus and the second wireless communication apparatus [while] after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to an incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus.

58. (Amended) A method of controlling a wireless control apparatus wirelessly linked with a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses including first and second wireless communication apparatuses, said method comprising;

a wireless-link establishing step of establishing wireless links with the first and second wireless communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call; and

a link maintaining step of maintaining the wireless link established for communication with the second wireless communication apparatus [while] after the first wireless communication apparatus responds to an incoming call, such that the incoming call can be transferred to the second wireless communication apparatus.

61. (Amended) A communication apparatus capable of wirelessly communicating with first and second apparatuses, comprising:

a connection unit adapted to connect communication channels used for communication with the first and second apparatuses, respectively, when a third apparatus communicates with the first and second apparatuses; and

a channel maintaining unit adapted to maintain a communication channel used for communication with the second apparatus while the first apparatus communicates with the third apparatus, such that the second apparatus can communicate with the third apparatus.